



Before the THRONE *The Devotional*

Volume 3

The Prophetic Books

Habakkuk 1:1

“The burden which Habakkuk, the prophet, did see.” Habakkuk 1:1

For every benefit we enjoy in life there is often some corresponding difficulty or opposition that must be overcome first. The same holds true with Christian ministry. Every ministry is faced with challenges and often these challenges are designed by God to act as a proving ground. Such testings¹ are designed to keep us dependant and reliant upon the Lord and not our own abilities, giftings, talent, education, experiences or even our calling.

It is easy for immature believers to fancy themselves as prophets. They see the gift in operation; they see the supernatural evidences of the prophet’s ministry; and they see the reaction of people to such ministry and it naturally inspires them to imagine their own lives as a prophet. Now, desiring a specific ministry gift is not a bad thing. (1 Corinthians 14:1; 1 Timothy 3:1). But to aspire to various spiritual giftings we need to remember that the gifts of the risen Christ are just that – His gifts to His Church. (Ephesians 4:11). One can not be self-appointed or self-anointed without becoming, and that rather quickly, a false gift!

Few people though, in reality, ever experience the burden of these ministry gifts of Christ and fewer are willing to carry it once they have touched it. With every ministry gift comes a corresponding burden or weight or pressure that must be borne! The apostle Paul said, “Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.” (2 Corinthians 11:28).

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Matthew 16:24).

¹ Such “testings” are not temptations to evil, for the Lord tempts no man with evil. (James 1:13). However, the “testings” of which we speak are often God-sent to the end that Christ may be formed within us or His eternal purposes may be worked within the earth – often the timing of the Lord is crucial to our understanding of these spiritual testings. (See the stories of Abraham and Sarah or Zachariah and Elizabeth.)

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